



STEVEN M. FULOP  
MAYOR OF JERSEY CITY

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### ***City of Jersey City and NJCU Partner to Present FREE Summer Concerts as Fulop Administration Continues to Expand Cultural Programming Citywide***

***Jersey City Expanding Partnerships with Universities, Leading Cultural Institutions, Non-Profits, and Community Groups to Diversify and Grow Events for Residents***

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** and **Dr. Sue Henderson, President of New Jersey City University**, announced today a partnership between the City of Jersey City and NJCU to present the “**Sounds of Summer Concerts**,” a series of free evening concerts taking place each month at different parks in Jersey City as the Fulop administration expands cultural programming citywide.

“We are pleased to launch this partnership with NJCU to host four new concerts this summer in our city and county parks as we continue to grow our cultural programming for residents,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “Jersey City is one of the most diverse cities in the nation and we are constantly working to add new and exciting events that showcase our diversity for residents and visitors to enjoy.”

The latest concert series adds to the growing list of events that the Fulop Administration has supported in order to enhance Jersey City’s vibrant cultural scene. Along with hosting the “Sounds of Summer,” the City kicked off a partnership with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra earlier this month to present free classical music performances in Jersey City.

Other special events organized by the Fulop Administration include numerous sporting events, the Golden Gloves Finals, an expanded SummerFest Concert Series, Movies in the Park, a Halloween event for children, Project: Eats, and the return and expansion of Jersey City’s annual Fourth of July event in Liberty State Park, now in its second year. Jersey City is also attracting significant sporting events like also the 2017 Presidents Cup at Liberty National and the Tri-State 2015 Tough Mudder event in Liberty State Park.

“NJCU is excited to partner with the city of Jersey City in launching the inaugural ‘Sounds of Summer’ concert series,” said **Sue Henderson, President of New Jersey City University**. “We are excited to share these four terrific concerts with our friends and neighbors throughout Jersey City.”

The free concerts begin on **Thursday, June 25th at City Hall Plaza** in Jersey City at 6:00 p.m with the NYCity Slickers, a popular bluegrass band comprised of top-notch musicians from New York and New Jersey. This high energy group pays tribute to the greats of bluegrass with a progressive flair and has performed at festivals around the country.

(more)

**On Wednesday, July 15th, La Charanga 76**, a hot Latin band that performs up and down the East Coast, will perform in **Washington Park** in the Jersey City Heights at 6 p.m. Leader and flutist, Andrea Brachfeld, is well known in Latin jazz circles and has been recognized with the “Chico O’Farrill Lifetime Achievement Award” from Latin Jazz USA, the “Pionero Award” for her contributions to Latin Music and most recently the “Tribute to Charanga Flutes” Award.

Brachfeld has performed with Tito Puente, Pacquito D’Rivera, Ray Barretto, Nestor Torres, Hilton Ruiz and many other greats. The show will kick off with the Musical Theatre Workshop Touring Ensemble, a vocal group from NJCU under the direction of Marc Dalio.

Jazz great Winard Harper takes the stage on **Wednesday, August 19th**, in **Lincoln Park at 6 p.m.** with his popular group **Jeli Posse**. Considered by critics to be one of the most exciting drummers in jazz, Harper is an international star whose latest CD, “Coexist,” topped the jazz charts for weeks. He has worked with some of the greatest legends in jazz including Betty Carter, Dr. Billy Taylor and Dexter Gordon. This concert begins at 6:00 p.m. with performance by the Musical Theatre Workshop Touring Ensemble, comprised of students from NJCU under the direction of Marc Dalio.

The final concert in the series will take place on **Thursday, September 10th at Grundy Pier at Exchange Place** at 6:30 p.m. and will feature the **NJCU Alumni Jazz Big Band** under the direction of Dr. Richard Lowenthal. Comprised of working alumni from the school’s jazz studies program, the big band will pay tribute to the great trumpet player Clark Terry who passed away earlier this year. Terry, whose career spanned more than 70 years, was one of the most recorded and beloved musicians in jazz history.

“The WPA is excited to host one of the Jersey City and NJCU concert series in Washington Park. One of the best ways for residents to make positive improvements in their city is by creating an opportunity for them to engage and take ownership of their community in different ways,” said **Mory Thomas, Founder of the Washington Park Association and Vice President of the Jersey City Parks Coalition**. “Free cultural programming is one of the smartest ways to accomplish this.”

Additional sponsors for this four-concert series include the Hudson County Parks Department, Capital One Bank, Connell Foley, Del-Sano Construction, the Hopkins Group, Liberty Savings Federal Credit Union, Mack-Cali, the Masonry Contractors Association, Panepinto Properties, Silverman Building, the Hudson County Office of Cultural Affairs, the NJCU Foundation and the New Jersey Jazz Society.

All concerts will be free and open to the public. Raindates are scheduled for the Monday following the first three concerts if necessary. For more information, please call the Office of Cultural Affairs at 201-547-6921 or visit the NJCU website at [www.njcu.edu](http://www.njcu.edu).

### **ABOUT NJCU**

Situated on a beautifully landscaped campus in a vibrant urban community, New Jersey City University (NJCU) provides top-quality education to over 8,500 students who reflect the dynamism of the University’s metropolitan Jersey City location. As the safest university campus in New Jersey and one of the most diverse in the nation, NJCU prepares students to be leaders in a global society within the comforts of an intimate community. It is a place to think and grow by interacting with culturally and ethnically diverse classmates and faculty from countries worldwide. NJCU provides an educational experience that helps prepare our students for career success and global impact.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Don Jay Smith of LKS Associates at 908-832-1020 or by email at [don@lksassociates.com](mailto:don@lksassociates.com) or Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699. ///**



**Editor's Note:** The NYCity Slickers kick off "Sounds of Summer Concerts" with a free show on the plaza in front of Jersey City's City Hall on Thursday, June 25. Additional photos and interviews may be arranged by contacting Don Jay Smith of LKS Associates at 908-832-1020 or by email at [don@lksassociates.com](mailto:don@lksassociates.com).